

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Preferably, the reinforcing partitions extend longitudinally and are fabricated during the extrusion of the block 11 using a suitable ~~die~~ extrusion die (Figure 8) shaped so as to form, by extrusion of a ceramic material, a structure provided with channels suitable for the fabrication of a filter block according to the invention, according to techniques known to a person skilled in the art.

Page 5, please replace the paragraphs beginning at line 15 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

FIGS. 5 and 6 show, in plan view, longitudinal cross sections, along a median plane M as shown in FIG. 7, of filter bodies consisting of 16 blocks according to and not according to the invention, respectively, after having undergone severe regeneration tests; ~~and~~

FIG. 7 shows, in transverse cross section, a filter body used for said tests-; and

FIG. 8 schematically shows an extrusion die used to form the structure suitable for fabricating a filter block according to the invention.